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EDITED BY THE PROFESSORS OF THE MIAMI UNIVERSITY.

ORIGINAL.

ELECTRICITY.

A distinguishing excellence of the modern inductive philosophy, is the eminent applicability of its results to the common operations and concerns of life. As long as this science, in the hands of the schoolmen, consisted of a mere mass of extravagant speculation and absurd hypothesis, and nothing was put to the test of experiment but the imagination of the theorist, and the credulity of his followers, it was entirely unproductive of any practical utility, and served no other purpose than merely as a subject to amuse the fancy and exercise the ingenuity of the self-styled philosopher. But since the true and legitimate mode of conducting philosophical investigation, first taught by Bacon and first practised upon by Newton, has been generally introduced, and men have begun to interrogate nature herself for the revelation of her secrets; scarcely is there a single department of human art or labour which has not been benefited by an application of philosophical principles; or a single branch of the science which has not been made to minister to the conveniences, the pleasures, or the safety of human life.

Amongst the many discoveries of modern philosophy which have been advantageously applied to useful purposes, few have been more conspicuous and striking than that for which we are originally indebted to our immortal Franklin; by which he taught us how to arrest the lightning in its

course, and to disarm it of its bolt. Soon after the identity of electricity and lightning was established, the use of lightning rods for the protection of buildings, ships, &c. from the effects of this tremendous element became very common both in this country and in Europe. Owing to the occurrence of occasional accidents, however, from their imperfect construction and erroneous ideas respecting their mode of action, there are not wanting many persons who still entertain prejudices against their use, or at least are somewhat sceptical concerning their efficacy. It may not therefore be entirely useless, in a Journal devoted to literary and scientific subjects, to make a few remarks upon this useful instrument. This seems the more necessary, since the construction of them is frequently entrusted to persons who are mere artists, and entirely ignorant of the principles upon which their operation depends.

It will be necessary in the first place to revert a little to first principles. In thunder storms, the clouds having become electrical,—whether by the friction of the air in winds, by evaporation, or by other atmospheric changes, or all combined, it matters not,—by their influence electrify the surface of the earth opposed to them with the contrary electricity.* A consequent attraction takes

* It will be perceived that the writer adopts Dufay's theory of two electricities called the *vitreous* and the *resinous*; for although the Franklinian hypothesis of the *positive* and *negative* states of bodies may sufficiently explain the action of the lightning

place, and a tendency in the fluids to pass between them and restore the equilibrium. This would instantly be done were it not for the resistance of the atmosphere, which is a non-conductor. The clouds and surface of the earth may therefore be compared to the coatings of the Leyden jar, the glass itself being represented by the intervening stratum of air. It is this resistance of the air which produces the zigzag appearance of the stream of lightning; the compression becoming so great in the line of direction of the moving fluid, as eventually to overcome its momentum, and thus divert it for an instant from its course. A discharge will therefore not take place until the clouds acquire such a proximity to the earth as that the attraction becomes so great as to overcome the intervening resistance. This is called the *striking distance*, and will be greater or less according to the intensity of the charge. The object of the electrical spire, which should be a metallic rod extending some distance above the building, is to discharge and neutralize the fluid without explosion before the cloud comes within striking distance. It is a vulgar notion that the effect of the rod depends upon a certain attraction which conductors exert upon the electric fluids, and encouragement is given to this notion in some of the old systems of philosophy, where it is said that "conductors attract and non-conductors repel the electric effluvia." This has probably given rise to the prejudice existing in the minds of some against the use of this instrument; from the supposition that by collecting and concentrating the fluid, it may endanger that which it was designed to protect. But it is wholly a mistake. Conductors do not produce a discharge from any

rod; yet as there are electrical phenomena which cannot be satisfactorily explained by it, he considers it, however simple and beautiful, as defective.

peculiar attraction for the fluid, but merely because they afford it a channel of communication by which it can pass. Non-conductors on the other hand are impermeable to it: this, and not any repulsion for the fluid, is the cause of their not affording it a passage.

(To be continued.)

DECLAMATION.

Concluded.

There is one case however that may be urged with considerable plausibility against what has been advanced in regard to the effect of declamation: I mean the success of theatrical declamation, in affecting the audience.

Here, it may be urged, all is fiction. The audience know it to be so—they are aware that the characters are fictitious and the passions feigned. Yet by copying nature, and exhibiting nothing but what might be expected under the circumstances supposed, the actors succeed in producing an ideal presence and reality of that which they represent—and thus the effect is produced.

"You express fact as though it were fiction—but we represent fiction as if it were fact"—was the answer of an eminent tragedian to a worthy prelate who asked him why preaching produced less effect than acting. This is the secret—The very thing that gives effect to scenic representation must destroy it in business. With all the advantages that the peculiar kind of composition which the dramatist uses can give him, and every assistance to be derived from scenery and extravagance of action approaching to mimicry which in the pulpit, at the bar, or in the legislative hall would be highly improper; it requires a peculiar facility of appropriate talent to succeed in the character of an actor. This arises from the difficulty of overcoming the absurdities which, even in

the best plays, must be apparent in attempting to represent, as really happening before, us the occurrences of a long and eventful life within the space of a few hours, and that too connected with the destinies of all the dramatis personæ though of different ages, characters, and countries, so as to produce that upon which the whole effect depends—a temporary belief that the whole is reality. The absurdity of repeating a set speech of another man's composition, under circumstances different from those which at first attended it, is quite as flagrant as in the case of the actor, while the orator has none of his advantages in overcoming it, and will experience less indulgence in case of failure.

We do not admit that more talent is necessary to succeed as an actor than as an orator. Less versatility of genius is necessary to the former than to the latter.—But admitting this, the rare instances of eminent actors, while the number of good orators is very considerable, ought to discourage us from attempting success in imitation of the former.—We go farther.—We assert that the talent which qualifies a man to excel on the stage is not only of a lower grade than that which will enable him to become an eminent extemporaneous speaker, or parliamentary debater, but that the one is incompatible with the other.—Much as the sensibilities and fine feelings of actors have been extolled, we suspect that their merit consists in strongly imagining the circumstances supposed by their author, and thus exciting feelings which the dullest would experience were these circumstances real.

They certainly do not possess, or if they did would soon destroy that instinctive feeling of propriety, which is offended at every species of impropriety, falsehood or absurdity, which gives the possessor pain in attempt-

ing any thing that is either improper or out of place and often imperceptibly keeps him right when his judgement would fail to direct him.

There is something in this that instinctively informs the speaker of the exact state of the audience—how they are affected towards the subject—what is necessary to bring them to that state of feeling which he wishes, and how far he may venture to interfere with their previous opinions without exciting their opposition to that for which he wishes to enlist their partialities.

But all this the habit of memoriter declamation tends to stifle and obliterate, unless indeed it happens to be too strong thus to be overcome, and then it is vain for the possessor to hope for excellence as a mere reciter.

Just in proportion as a boy is qualified for becoming an interesting, efficient, impressive speaker, is he disqualified for becoming eminent as a declaimer. It rarely, if ever happens, that a good actor is a great orator.

The history of the drama, we believe, furnishes but a single exception and the eloquence of Sheridan was rather that of the stage than of the senate even in his parliamentary speeches.

The best speakers are those whose fluency is the result of a familiar acquaintance with the subject—whose accuracy arises from clear and distinct views of it in all its parts, and in all its relations, and an immediate attention to that part of it which is under discussion; whose vehemence is caused by feeling its importance and an earnest desire to impress this upon the minds of those who hear—whose manner is natural because they forget to be artificial, through an engagedness in the cause in which they are employed, and whose action and gesture is appropriate because it is the unstudied result of their feelings

They seem to understand their subject and to be determined that those whom they address shall thoroughly understand it also. All the beauties of their speaking are referable to their apparent ability to do even more than they are doing—did the occasion require it. They do not seem to put forth all their strength, which would argue weakness, produce unpleasant feeling for the speaker, and create a suspicion that the effort was intended for display—to hide the feebleness of the orator—and not accommodated to his judgment of the importance of the subject.

Tois, declamation is not calculated to promote. It tends to prevent it, as has already been shewn. In conclusion it might be expected that we should advance something which might lead to a more profitable method of improving in oratory.

This would be but fair, and we hold the practice that existed in some of the ancient republics, that he who proposed the repeal of a law should be prepared to substitute another in its place, to be a good one.

Hereafter we may resume the subject, when this part of it will claim our first attention. For the present, we can only say, that extemporaneous speaking, especially in debate, would, we think, be profitably exchanged for the practice of declamation. Much preparation, however, is necessary in order to derive the greatest advantage which may be derived from this exercise. It cultivates habits of attention, strengthens the memory, improves the invention, gives confidence to the young speaker in his own powers, and in a word contributes to the cultivation and improvement of all that is desirable in the most desirable of acquisitions—Eloquence.

Time obliterates the fictions of opinion, and confirms the decisions of nature.

CICERO.

LES HISTOIRES.—NO. IV.

‘TIME GONE BY.’

How sweet at close of summer days
To list to tales of love;
How sweet to feel the cooling breeze
Around our temples move.

‘Tis sweet to see the aged wear
Contentment on their brow;
But sweeter ‘tis to see the tear
Of memory gently flow:
It indicates a kindly heart,
And one that long has known
The pangs, which only thoughts impart,
Of being left alone!

There is something in a calm summer evening, so exquisitely touching, that the heart which feels not its power must be callous and too cold to inhabit the frame of man. The sun slow sinking in the west—glowing amidst the foliage of the trees or dancing on the ruffled surface of some limpid stream; the little birds twittering, as they haste to search a place of rest for the approaching night; the soft cooing of the turtle-dove, taking a last farewell of the parting day; all awake feelings and sensations that cannot be described. The king of day goes down and the shades of night set in. But there is a brilliant colour in the clouds above,—borrowed splendour—that informs us he has not yet passed far below. The horizon around is not quite darkened, when faint streaks of light announce the approach of chaste Luna, the goddess of the night. Sometimes, when we are not aware of her coming, the ‘large, full moon,’ rising in all its wonted majesty, fills us with consternation and horror. But in a few moments the supposed ravages of the ‘all devouring element’ are shewn to be only imaginary, as we see the bright orb nobly ascending above the neighbouring hills. The fire-fly too sheds its pale light and reminds us of the spangled castles in the ‘fairy tales,’ where halls are paved with ‘guineas bright.’ Such is the time to walk abroad and reflect on the goodness and greatness of Providence.

It was on an evening like this that I

saw the aged Edwin sitting at the door of his humble cottage, enjoying the coolness of the sweetened air. I loved old people. Their very appearance indicated knowledge and experience. We know from the frowns and snows which have fallen on their brows, that they have seen and felt the severities of many winters. There is solemnity in their whole bearing that has more weight and influence on the youthful mind, than the 'symmetrical form and sparkling eye.' They seem to stand as the rainbow, between the earth and heaven. They are like the Aeolian sounds which breathed by the gentle zephyr, send a thrilling motion through the very soul. As the aged oak strikes its roots into the ground, in proportion as years dry up the sap above and tear away the branches from its trunk, so is the old man, as time pulls from his withered brow the few grey hairs remaining, more deeply graven in our memories and legibly written on the tablets of our hearts. When he falls and death opens its door to his feeble knock, we feel a blight around us and a void in the circle of our acquaintance. To think that the once venerable old man, whom we looked up to with so much reverence and such profound respect should be blotted from the scroll of time,

Should lie in cold obstruction and should rot

His sensible and warm spirits too become
A kneaded clod;

fills us with thoughts too painful to be expressed.

The lovely Annette attended my aged friend. She was a most beautiful girl. Her size was neither too large nor too small, but elegantly proportioned. Auburn tresses hung loosely over her shoulders and concealed her snow white neck from view. Her blue eyes sparkled as the dew-drop in the morning sunbeam; or as the brilliant star of evening. Her cheeks were like the

pale primrose, with only a sufficiency of red, to evince the glow of health. She seemed a being formed for love. She was the 'ail in all of Edwin, the offspring of his dear departed Susan. He cherished her as a flower too tender to be deserted to the fury of the tempest; too lovely to be exposed to the rough sport of wind and weather. He instilled it to her mind all that was good, all that was excellent. He had sown the seeds of knowledge and now lived to see the plant he watched so carefully arrive at maturity. He indeed was happy. All nature seemed to smile around him; and the green corn bowing gracefully appeared to strive with the furrowed lake before his cot, for the prize of beauty and sublimity. He gazed on the bright moon riding in the heaven, giving her reflected light to nations, and his thoughts reverted to times gone by. It was his custom during the summer months, when the evenings were clear, to sit before his cottage and narrate to Annette and myself, some of his adventures over life's chequered way. The evening I speak of, we sat in silent suspense till the old man turning his almost sightless eye from the heavens where it had long rested, upon us, said.—"My children you have heard the story of my life. The various vicissitudes and caprices of fortune I had to undergo, may give you some idea of the various pleasures and pains to which mortals are subjected. Yonder cloud that now obscures the moon is an emblem of the frailty of man and the swift passage of his life." We looked to the heavens and a thin veil concealed the but now brilliant orb and intercepted it from our view. "It is passed" resumed he "and the thread of life is spun. It is wound up and the ball deposited in the common resting place. Did you see that meteor flash along the sky? The towering hopes of man rush as

Cross our minds as the flame that just met our gaze. They fall by their own weight; they press down their sad victims." He paused and fixed his eye again upon the full moon shining bright. "I see that orb for the last time. The grave yawns before me, yet I repine not, I fear not to die. There is but one pain, and that is the thought of my lovely child left alone, unprotected, 'in this vile world of sin.' Yet the Divine preserver of all the fatherless will find her a home: the widow's stay and the orphan's hope will provide for her."

"Father," said I. "I will protect her, I will be a friend to her when thou art gone, while I have strength and health she shall want for nought." "Giver of mercies, I ask no more; I knew thou wouldst provide a shelter for my helpless orphan. Henry, I believe thee true: take her, cherish her. She is not a thistle that grows on the wild, but a tender lily too lovely to be destroyed. Fare well! I shall never see thee again. You moon will beam upon my grave when next she yields her light. Once more adieu. May the God of heaven bless you. He folded us to his bosom, and we retired for the night. To me it was a sleepless one. Ere the moon went down I heard a gentle sigh: 'twas the spirit of my friend escaping from earthly trammels to another world."

The sun arose in splendour. The clouds and vapours disappeared at his approach. All without was beautiful and wore the garb of loveliness. Not so within the cot where the bright smile of joy once beamed. The soul of Edwin had been recalled unto his makers, and he was deposited in the ground on the same evening, and the mound covered with green turf. Annette lamented his death as a daughter should who had lost her kind protector and parent.

When the revolving year brought with it the period when it might become her to lay aside her 'crape' I received her hand, and led her blushing, to the altar. She is now mother to two smiling boys who are 'a father's pride, & mother's joy.'

Les Histoires are ended! To those who deigned to peruse them some apology is necessary. They were hastily written during the intervals of study and needed much the aid of leisure and polish. As a pastime and amusement were they commenced, and they are finished owing to circumstances that could not be avoided. The Editors of 'the Register' have been kind enough to let the writer see his own productions in print; yet is he not puffed with it, so much as not to know how trite and shallow they are. He will, when years and experience are in his possession, revert to former times, when his bosom was young, and think how Les Histoires could be improved. Until then adieu.

CAROLAN.

SELECTED.

It is impossible to banish all religion from the world.

It is not my object here, to consider religion as it is a matter of duty, or a means of obtaining happiness in a future world; for both these would be equally disregarded by those men who aim at the subversion of all religion. What I shall attempt, at present, is to state and establish the fact, that man is so constituted, that he must have some sort of religion.

And the truth of this will be manifest, from an inspection of the principles of human nature, and from the history of the world. Man has naturally a sense of moral obligation, a perception of the difference between right and wrong, feelings of remorse or approbation on the re-

view of his conduct, fears of future retribution when he has committed a crime and a propensity to pay religious homage to some object, visible, or invisible. These are what have been called his *religious feelings*; and from them he has received the appellation of a *religious animal*. And certainly, there is nothing by which man is so clearly distinguished from the creatures below him, as this capacity for religion; for whatever indication they give of their sagacity in other matters, it is impossible to communicate to them any ideas of morality, or any impressions of a religious nature. Now, that these feelings are natural, and not adventitious, is manifest, because they are found to exist in men of all ages, of all countries, and in every different state of society. And hence, no nation, ancient or modern, has ever been found without some kind of religion. It would be as difficult to find a whole nation without religion, as to find one destitute of speech. Some travellers, it is true, from superficial observation, have reported that some savage tribes had no ideas of religion, and no species of worship; but, on more accurate examination, it has been ascertained, that this was a mistake. And from our present knowledge of the nations of the earth, we are authorized to assert, that there is not one totally destitute of some sense of religion, and some form of worship. The same thing was well known to all the wisest men of antiquity. It is a fact from which both Plato and Cicero have derived many important conclusions. And these principles of our nature are so deeply radicated, that they never can be removed. Men may be induced to abandon their old religion, and to adopt a new one; but they never can remain long free from all religion. Take away one object of worship and they will soon attach themselves to another. If unhappily they lose the know-

ledge of the true God, they will set up gods of their own invention; or receive them from others. The history of all nations bears such ample testimony to this fact, that it cannot be denied. Now, this universality of religion evinces, in the clearest manner, that the principle is natural, that it is an essential thing in the constitution of man; just as the fact, that men are always found living in society, proves that the social principle exists, and is natural to man.

Atheistical men, have, indeed, attempted to trace all religious feelings, and all rights of worship, to the craft of priests, and policy of rulers; but this opinion is not only unsupported by historical testimony, but is most unreasonable in itself. For if there had not existed a predisposition to religion in the minds of men, such a design would never have been conceived; and if it had, all attempts to introduce into the minds of man, ideas so foreign to his nature, must have been abortive. At any rate, such an imposition could not have continued for so long a time, and could not have been extended to every nation and tribe in the world. If no sense of religion had existed in the minds of men, priests, and politicians, however cunning, would have had no handle to take hold of, no foundation on which to build. Besides, it seems to be forgotten by the advocates of this hypothesis, that the existence of priests supposes the previous existence of religion.

They have, moreover, alleged that fear produced the gods. Be it so; it still confirms my position, that there is something in the nature of man which leads him to religion; and it is reasonable to conclude, that a cause which has operated uniformly, heretofore, will continue to produce the same effects as long as the world stands. It is impossible therefore, to banish all religion from the world.

To what degree, atheists have

succeeded, in divesting themselves of all religious impressions, I do not pretend to know. That some men have gone to a great length in counteracting the constitutional tendencies, and extinguishing the feelings of nature, is undoubtedly true; but there have been sufficient indications to lead to the opinion, that there is more of affectation than reality in the bravery of their profession. It is known that some of them have, above other men, been the slaves of superstitious fears; and that others, in times of extreme peril, as in a storm at sea, have for the moment renounced their atheism, and cried as earnestly for mercy, as those around them. Now, if these philosophers, with all their reasoning, are not able to erase all religious impressions from their own minds, it is vain to attempt to banish all religion from the world.

But suppose the great work achieved; and that every vestige of religion was obliterated; what would be the result? Would men remain without any objects of religious homage? Would they never again be afraid of invisible powers? Would the feelings of remorse at no time urge them to perform some sort of a penance, or attempt some kind of expiation? Would no impostors and false prophets arise to deceive the world again with their dreams, fancies, and pretended revelations? They must have made but superficial observations on human nature, who think that none of these things would ever occur.

If those persons, therefore, who oppose Christianity, hope, by its subversion, to get rid of all religion, they do greatly deceive themselves. This work being accomplished, they would soon have more to perform in endless progression. Instead of the pure, mild, benignant religion of Christ, they would soon find themselves surrounded by superstitious as false and

as foul, as monstrous and as absurd, as any which the hot-bed of Paganism ever produced. Look into the heathen world, and see the abominations and miseries which inveterate superstition perpetuates in some of the fairest and most populous regions of the globe. Look at the savage tribes of Africa and America, and contemplate the cruel bondage of superstition, to which the people are subjected. Evils as great would soon grow up among us, were it not for the salutary influence of Christianity. Our fore-fathers before they became Christians, were in the same degraded and wretched situation. And shall we curse our posterity by bringing back those evils from which our fathers escaped? It is a truth which should be proclaimed every where upon the house-tops, that it is the BIBLE which has delivered us from this horrid superstition; and it is the BIBLE which must prevent its return. Philosophy has had no hand in working out this deliverance from the horrors of idolatry. With all her celebrated schools and sages, she never turned one individual from the worship of idols; and she would be equally powerless in preventing the return of superstition, if other barriers were removed.

(To be Continued.)

THE LAST JUDGMENT.

By Rev. Edward Irving.

We have now before us a subject, which for the magnificence of the scenery, the magnitude of the transaction, and the effects which it draweth on, stands unrivalled in the annals of human knowledge; a subject, indeed, with which the powers of conception cannot be brought to contend. Imagination cowers her wing, unable to fetch the compass of the ideal scene. The great white throne descending out of the heaven, guarded and begirt with the principal-

ties and powers thereof; the awful presence, at whose sight the heavens and the earth flee away and no place for them is found; the shaking of the another element of nature, and the commotion of the hoary deep, to render up their long dissolved dead; the rushing together of quickened men upon all the winds of heaven, down to the centre where the judge sitteth upon his blazing throne; to give form and figure and utterance to the mere circumstantial pomp of such a scene, no imagination availeth. The arch angel, with the trumpet of God, riding sublime in the midst of heaven, and sending through the widest dominion of death and the grave, that sharp summons that divideth the solid earth and rings through the caverns of the hollow deep, piercing the dull cold ear of death with the knell of their departed reign; the death of death, dismembering of the grave, the reign of life, the second birth of living things, the re-union of body and soul, the one from unconscious sleep, the other from apprehension and inquiet abodes; the congregation of all generations over whom the stream of time hath swept; this outstretches my understanding, no less than the material imagery confuses my imagination. And when I bring the picture to my heart, its feelings are overwhelmed. When I fancy this quick and conscious frame one instant re-awakened and reinvested, the next summoned before the face of the Almighty Judge; now re-begotten, now sifted through every secret corner; my poor soul, possessed with the memory of its misdeeds, submitted to the searching eye of my Maker, my fate depending upon his lips; my everlasting and changeless fate; I shriek and shiver with mortal apprehension. And when I fancy myriads of men, all standing thus explored and known, I seem to hear the shivering, like the aspen leaf in the still evening of autumn. Pale fear possesseth every countenance; and blank conviction

every quickening heart. They stand like men upon the perilous edge of battle, withholden from speech and pinched for dread through excess of struggling emotion; shame, remorse, and mortal apprehension and trembling hope.

Then the recording angel opens the book of God's remembrance and inquisition proceedeth apace. Among they move quicker than the movement of thought, to the right and left, two most enormous companies. From his awful seat, his countenance clothed with the smile which makes all heaven gay, the Judge pronounceth blessings forever and ever upon the heads of his disciples, and dispenseth to them a kingdom prepared by God from the first of time. To their minds, seized with the things of unexpected deliverance, it seemeth as a dream, and they speak their unworthiness, but they are re-assured by the voice of him that changeth not. Then joy seizeth their whole soul and assurance of immortal bliss. Their trials are ended, their course is finished, the prize is won, and the crown of eternal life is laid up for them in store;—fullness of joy and pleasure forever, at the right hand of God.

ASTRONOMY.

The size, and motions, and distance of the heavenly bodies are such as to exceed the power of ordinary imagination, from any comparison with the smaller things we see around us.—The earth's diameter is nearly 8,000 miles in length; but the sun's is above 880,000 miles, and the bulk of the sun is above 1,300,000 times greater than that of the earth. The planet Jupiter, which looks like a mere speck, from his vast distance, is nearly 1,300 times larger than the earth. Our distance from the sun is above 95 millions of miles; but Jupiter is 490 millions of miles, and Saturn 900 millions of miles distant from the sun. The rate at which

the earth moves round the sun is 68-000 miles an hour, and 140 times swifter than the motion of a cannon ball; and the planet Mercury, the nearest to the sun, moves still quicker, nearly 110,000 miles an hour. We, upon the earth's surface, besides being carried round the sun, move round the earth's axis by the rotary or spinning motion which it has; so every 24 hours we move in this manner near 14,000 miles, besides moving round the sun above 1,600,000 miles. These motions and distances, however, prodigious as they are, seem nothing compared to those of the comets, one of which, when furthest from the sun, is 11,900 millions of miles from him; and when nearest the sun, lies at the amazing rate of 880,000 miles an hour. Sir I. Newton calculated its heat at 2,000 times that of red-hot iron; and that it would take thousands of years to cool. But the distance of the fixed stars is yet more vast: they have been supposed to be 400,000 times further from us than we are from the sun, that is 38 millions of millions of miles: so that a cannon-ball would take between four and five millions of years to reach one of them, supposing there was nothing to hinder it from pursuing its course thither.

AFRICAN SANDS.

Capt. Beechy makes the following remarks upon the drifting of sands in Africa:—

We are not inclined to attribute so much to the overwhelming influences of sand, as many other travellers have done; we do not think that the danger of being actually buried will appear, on consideration, to be altogether so great to those who are crossing sandy deserts, as writers of high respectability have asserted. The sand which encounters a body in motion, would pass it, we should imagine, without accumulation; and the quantity which might even be

heaped upon sleepers could scarcely be more than they might easily shake off in waking. We shudder at the dreadful accounts which have been recorded of whole caravans and whole armies destroyed by those formidable waves of the desert;—and when our pity is strongly excited by such relations, we are seldom inclined to analyze them very deeply. But a little reflection would probably convince us that many of them are greatly exaggerated; some, because the writers believed what they related, and some because they wished their readers to believe what they might not be quite convinced of themselves. In fact we think it probable that they who have perished in the deserts, from the time of Psylla and Cambyzes to the present, have died, as is usual, before they were buried, either from violence of thirst or exhaustion.

GENERAL EXPENDITURES.

From an interesting document published in the National Journal, we extract the aggregate amount of expenditures, respectively, for the last eleven years. The Government expenditures, including a certain portion of the public debt paid off, amounted in

1817 to	\$40,877,646,64,
1818 to	\$35,104,885,40,
1819 to	\$24,004,299,73,
1820 to	\$21,763,024,85,
1821 to	\$19,090,572,69,
1822 to	\$17,676,592,63,
1823 to	\$15,314,171,00,
1824 to	\$31,898,538,47,
1825 to	\$23,585,804,72,
1826 to	\$24,103,398,47,
1827 to	\$22,730,469,77,

The public debt has rapidly diminished under the present administration. During the three last years of Mr. Monroe's administration, about thirty millions were appropriated for the payment of the public debt, principal and interest. The

amount paid in the last three years of Mr. Adams' administration is above thirty three millions. There has been an increased expenditure during the three years of Mr. Adams' administration above that of the three last years of Mr. Monroe's administration, on Fortifications of about \$900,000, on the Navy \$2,220,000, for the relief of individuals about \$326,000, on Arsenals \$150,000 on Marine Hospitals \$71,000. Notwithstanding these extra expenditures that justice and the interest of the country imperiously demanded, the general amount of expenditures of Mr. Adams' administration in the year 1825-6-7 exceeds very little that of the three last years of Mr. Monroe's administration. The expenditures of the government have evidently been conducted on as economical a scale as the interests of the country would admit.—*O. S. Journal.*

FOREIGN.

VERA CRUZ.—Capt. Paine, of the brig *Amos Palmer*, at New York, reports that Commodore Porter, of the ship *Asia*, 64; brig *Bravo*, of 18 guns, and another ship of the same force, had hauled down his flag, discharged all his men, and left but a few soldiers on board to take care of the vessels. The Mexicans were highly dissatisfied with the Commodore's conduct, and he intended returning home to the United States by the first conveyance.

PERU.—The Editor of the Gazette is indebted to an esteemed friend, and attentive correspondent at Lima, for files of papers of that Capital to the 22 May inclusive.

They contain several proclamations from the Commander in chief of the Army of Peru, to the Soldiers of the Republic, to the troops of Colombia in Peru, and to the National Soldiers of the upper section of the Country. The tenor of these proclamations would seem to evince a spirit of determined opposition to the threatened invasion of Colombia. But, there are many circumstances which must render this opposition ineffectual.—The power of Colombia is superior to that of Peru, her resources are so much more extensive, and above all she has at the head of her armies an individual whose military skill and reputation are of an order so much higher than that of any

commander to whom Peru can commit her destinies, that we apprehend the struggle will be a short and in all probability a bloodless one. At this critical juncture, too, it will be perceived that the crops in Peru have failed. This circumstance will greatly add to her embarrassments and while she is engaged in a war with a foreign power, she will be under the necessity of depending upon the products of other countries for the support and maintenance of her armies—in addition to this her cities are in ruins from the effects of an Earthquake, and her Congress at a most unfortunate period laid a duty upon the products and manufactures of other countries, amounting almost to prohibition, and which must render the cost of importing them as enormous as the necessity for them will be imperious.

The punishment of the son of Gen. Vidéaire, who had been condemned to death for an attempted rebellion, has through the influence and solicitations of his mother, been commuted to ten years banishment, *Balt. Gaz.*

FRANCE.—The French Chamber of Peers have terminated the deliberations on the project of law respecting the journals. The censorship, the monopoly of journals, and a law of tendencies (as to libel) have all been done away. The French nation is not divided by unequal laws; and the people, instead of quarrelling with each other, are united in rectifying the defect of their constitution.

PORTUGAL.—Paris papers announce the arrival of the Portuguese Constitutional troops, to the amount of 4,500, in Spain, where their reception probably exceeded their hopes, though not our own estimate of the Spanish character. On their arrival they were disarmed, as is the usual custom in such cases; but at the same time, a month's pay and provision, were granted to them, with an intimation from General Egina, that they might remain till their fate was decided upon by the Portuguese government.

The usurper, Miguel, pursues his tyrannical course with a high hand.

Captain Midway, from Oporto, had had an interview with the General commanding the Miguelite army, and had received assurances that the lives and properties of the refugees should be respected, and no insult offered to the flag of the British or merchant vessels. About 7,000 men marched into Oporto, and the current opinion at Oporto was, that it fell for want of officers to head the troops, who meant to defend it. Three Portuguese corvettes are cruising off the bar.—It is said that one of the gentlemen landed belonged to the Junta.

GREECE.—The *Augsburgh Gazette* announces that the President Count Capo d'Istria, President of Greece, having represented to the Allied Powers that he could not maintain himself in Greece without money, England had refused a subsidy, but France

and Russia had engaged to furnish 1,000,000 roubles per month, till further orders, and that France has destined for this purpose 2,000,000 out of the loan of 80,000,000.

The operations in Greece have not inflated of much importance. The war has languished on both sides. The last accounts, however, state that the Greeks have lately attacked the Turks in Athens—they took the town, but were obliged by the Turkish batteries of the Acropolis to evacuate it. The attempts of General Church against Amalico and Missolonghi, have failed.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.—The Russian government was making a considerable increase to their naval force in the Mediterranean. Three sail of the line and three heavy frigates, sailed from Constantinople on the 15th of June, three more sail of the line and two frigates, were to sail in the course of July.

An article under the head of Bucharest, June 21, states that the brave Turkish garrison of Brailow was to proceed to Silistria, which a Russian corps, commanded by General Gortchakoff, and consisting of 20,000 men, was marching to invest, according to the last official report from the Russian head quarters.

The London globe of the 21st says, the continental papers which have reached us this morning bring further accounts of the progress and success of the Russians. A Russian fortress in Asiatic Turkey, which was attacked by the force of Admiral Crog and General Menzikoff, has surrendered, and Talmash, or Tultsch, a fortress which the Russian army, under the immediate command of the Emperor, left behind it, has fallen into the hands of the besieging corps. The supplies, stores and provisions which have been found in Brailow are represented to have been very important. Meantime, the Russian army, under the Emperor, has been reinforced, and its advanced guards have been pushed without opposition to Manalic and Gouzounn. These places are about half way between Karassu and Bazardzeik, the place where there is any appearance that the Turks will make a stand.

It was rumored that the Porte had agreed to accept of the mediation of France and England.

REPORTED REVOLUTION IN ITALY.—The Editor of the New-York Daily Advertiser says, we are informed that private advices have been received here by the way of Legation direct, that a revolution has taken place in the Two Sicilies. The particulars are not furnished, but it is represented that Naples and the Island of Sicily are both affected by a simultaneous spirit. We cannot, under existing circumstances, look for any such change which Austria will admit to be permanent.

The Sicilians and Neapolitans are beginning to whisper about Revolution. This is all they will ever do, they have not soul enough to make one free man in the bosoms

of all their people.—They have not energy enough to look discontented. The day of the Sicilian Vesper is past and gone, and Austria has only to say "be still," and Etna and Vesuvius beyond her control will be the only things which will break the trembling silence of the slaves living beneath and around them. *Balt. Gaz.*

SUMMARY.

How to avoid danger.—"The best way to avoid danger," said Sir B. de la Roche, "is to meet it plump."

Torpedo Shot.—Captain Ward of the custom house, has invented a sort of shot to which he has given the name of "torpedo," which he is confident, if fairly tested, will enable merchant ships to protect themselves against any description of vessel—the larger the hostile ship, the greater the chance being of its skin or shot taking effect. The invention may also tend, according to many calculations, to mitigate the horrors of war, by rendering or treating resistance as loss, and saving the destruction of life. The particular description of this shot, which is contained in several of the papers, too long to be copied. All that can be said, Ward requests, is an opportunity of testing his invention, on some condemned hulk, under the observation of scientific men. For this purpose a certain amount of funds is requisite; and such as are disposed to contribute may have an opportunity of subscribing at the Mercantile Exchange.

In Boston, gentlemen send their boots and shoes to South America, to have them covered with India rubber, the better to resist the water.

The Quebec official Gazette, is against uniting the two Canadas. It says that a union of the saltetre of the Upper province with the sulphur of the Lower, may lead, by some spark, to a destructive explosion.

The African Prince, Abdul Rahmahman, who has been 40 years a slave at Natchez, Mississippi, and has lately been ransomed, [see *Statesman of May last*] is now in this city, endeavoring to complete the small sum necessary to purchase the liberty of his children. There is no doubt of the truth of his story, as he writes and speaks the Arabic language, the vernacular of his country, and he has been recognised by Dr Cox, who was several weeks at his Father's house. The truth of his relation has also been tested by the U. S. Govt. through its Consuls.

There is a modest and engaging dignity in his manner which might argue in favour of the mistaken notions of birth were it not the necessary result of education, intelligence and innocence. He purposes settling with his family, at Liberia, and maintaining himself by his and their labour, and by trading. He is well acquainted with the place, and

its natural productions, having been there in his youth. Timbo, his father's country, he considers as about 300 miles from Liberia, and he hopes that a road may be opened from the one to the other, and a commercial intercourse commenced. He is a native of Tombuctoo.—*Boston Palladium*

Soundness of the Lungs.—Dr Lyons of Edinburgh, proposes an ingenious and practical test for trying the soundness of the lungs. The patient is directed to draw in a full breath, and then begin to count as far as he can, slowly and audibly, without again drawing in his breath. The number of seconds he can continue counting is then to be carefully noted. In confirmed consumption the time does not exceed eight, and is often less than six seconds. In pleurisy and pneumonia it ranges from nine to four seconds. But when the lungs are sound, the time will range as high as from 20 to 35 seconds.

The Western Country.—The valley of the river Miami includes about 3,500,000 acres of land, valued at upwards of \$10,000,000. The advantageous locality of this valley is only surpassed by the superior fertility of its soil. To the South, at its base, it is washed by the gentle current of the Ohio river, upon which is borne with safety to the southern maris the rich and plentiful products of the soil. Through their whole meanders, in nearly parallel directions, the Miamies are of immense value to the country, from the great amount of water power which they furnish to give impulse to various species of machinery.

Of this 3,600,000 acres, there may be rated 120,000 acres *first rate*, 2,500,000 *second rate* and 870,000 acres of *third rate* land; capable of supporting 1,270,000 inhabitants, or about 300 to a square mile.

Antarctic Expedition.—The Nantucket Enquirer of the 16th ult. says:—"Mr. Reynolds has been in our town for the past week, busily engaged in reading over the old log books of our whaling captains, conversing with our merchants, and acquiring all the information possible from our citizens interested in the South Seas and Pacific Ocean. This information, it is supposed, will be very serviceable in directing the surveys and examinations of the expedition expected ere long to sail from this country, under the direction of the Navy Department. Our citizens feel much interest in this subject, and have appointed an active committee to assist Mr. R. in effecting the object of his visit to our Island."

A man in England lately amused some people by eating broken glass.

The British have made peace with the Ashantees. The African king deposited 4000 ounces of gold with the British, and gave them two hostages.

Dartmouth College.—The annual com-

mencement at this college was held on Wednesday last.—The degree of A. B. was conferred on forty-one young gentlemen, that of A. M. on sixteen, and that of M. L. on ten. The degree of D. D. was conferred on the Rev. John Smith, Noah Porter, and Warren Fay, and that of L. L. D. on the Hon. Charles Marsh. *Penn. Gaz.*

Political Arithmetic.—If there had been no deaths in the world, there would be this day on the earth 1,730,000,000,000 (173,000 milliard.) As the continent contains at least 1537 billions of square feet, each person could have 2100 square feet.

On the other hand, as the number of deaths is to that of births as 10 to 12, there are born each year, 36 millions of men; each day 92,400; each hour 4026; each minute 72; each second 1 and a tenth; and the death of every second.

Thus, poor mortals you sneeze, and soon you die; you make a step and another die; I shake my pen and a death happens; how many deaths have happened while I have been making these few remarks? but reader, whilst you have been running over this paragraph how many have been born!

Journal du Havre.

Monumental Statue to Lord Byron.—The friends of Lord Byron are about to do at last what the public should have done four years ago—they have announced the name of a Committee to receive and appropriate funds for the erection of a national monument to his memory.

Paper making.—It is stated in a late London paper, that a great improvement in the art of paper making has been invented and is about being adopted, in most of the large manufactories of Great Britain. It is a powerful driving steam-machine, containing four large cylinders, through which a web in the fullest sense of the term, passes, and obtains by the pressure, a surface smooth and even in every part, and is cut to any size.

A New Seat.—The board of Aldermen, on application of C. P. Francis, Minister of the Shierrians, or Anti-Satanists, for a lease of the Centre Hall of the New Market-house, for a place of public worship, resolved that it was inexpedient to grant the same.

Boston Patriot.

Improvements in Steam-Boats.—Mr. Blair of New-Orleans, is now in this city exhibiting some improvements in steam boilers, for the purpose, if possible, of introducing them into use.

It is well known that the safety of passengers from any explosion of the boilers, and the reduction of fuel consumed, are now considered desiderata in the improvement of steam boat navigation.—Mr. Blair proposes by his method, to obtain both these objects. Some idea of his plan may be had by observing that he places his boilers transverse,

to the vessel, thus avoiding any danger from the *heads*, which have almost universally been the immediate cause of injuries occasioned by explosions. He also reduces the thickness of the body of water to be evaporated, and passes it over a large surface in the process; in which mode it is supposed a greater quantity of steam may be generated in proportion to the fuel consumed.

These we believe are the substance of his improvements, and so far as we are competent to judge, are well calculated to answer the ends proposed. They are at least worthy the examination of steam-boat owners, engineers, mechanists, and men of science; such we hope will give the plan their attention. Mr. Blair thinks this place most interested in such works, and has therefore come here for the purpose of obtaining patronage and executing his projects.

He has, we understand, already obtained a patent for his improvement, from the legislature of Louisiana. That body has also expressed its approbation of a new Evaporator, invented by him and used in the manufacture of sugar. Its object is to reduce the consumption of fuel. We were surprised to learn the quantity of wood used in the sugar manufacture: it is estimated in value at more than \$700,000 per annum, and if not reduced in quantity must soon limit the production of sugar.—*Western Tiller*.

New-York is the empire of fashion. It gives ton to the Continent in the cut of coats, and the pleasures of the table, as gay and chivalric France does to the kingdoms of Europe. From Sandy Hook to Niagara, we are constantly in a commotion of delight.—Every day of the week, and every week of the year, the bubbles of fashion rise in glory, shine a few moments in splendor, and then bursting give place for other and newer bubbles. We have more heat, cold, rain, music, dancing and soda water, than any other state in the union. From the south, from the north, from the east, the weary pilgrim turns his horse's head to New-York and his venerable tail to his native mountains. Fresh from her rice plantations, the Georgian beauty skips like a sylph through the Cotillions of Saratoga and Ballston, and makes the eyes of the Vermonter

sparkle with delight and amusement. The Carolinian fills our steamers with the most graceful indolence, and the Virginians climb our mountains in ecstasy. From the *ultima thule* of the British Provinces, the holy Bishops, and pious Priests of the royal church pilgrimage it to our great water drinking state. The ninety-ninth removes from royal blood cannot withstand the fascinations of our mountains, our lakes, our rivers, our cities and our steamers. The Catskill Mountains astonish—the Pine Orchard enraptures—Saratoga fills them with water and wonder: and Niagara kills them on the spot. It is but a step to Liverpool. Who shall wonder if the very fashionables of London itself should turn their long-lingering eyes to the novelties of the new world? Perhaps a few years will fill our rivers, cover our mountains, and delight our Saratoga with the exquisites of Bond-street, or loungers of Pall-Mall. There is no place like New-York on the face of this globe, and that is the plain truth.—*N. Y. Enquirer*.

The celebrated Grecian dog, Apollo, is offered for sale. Price, only \$1000. Dog cheap.

The late London papers state, that in various parts of the kingdom, heavy rains had prevailed, which had beaten down the crops, inundated villages, destroyed large quantities of produce, and drowned many of the domestic animals.—*Cin. Chron.*

Varnish for Iron and Steel.—A permanent varnish is obtained by rubbing iron, in a state nearly red hot, with the horny hoofs of cattle, previously dipped in a small portion of oil. This process is asserted to afford the best defence from the influence of air and humidity.—*Lon. Mec. Mag.*

An opinion has been prevalent among philosophers, that as the world grows older, the life of man grows shorter, and his stature less, and that his strength is diminished.

So far as the gradual shortening of human life is concerned, it appears, that the wise ones of the earth have been in error. Mons. Odier, of Switzerland, has been lately engaged in investigations on the subject, the result of which is, as the world grows older, the average life of man is extended.—He has gone back as far as the year 1560, and found that between the year 1560, and the year

1600, the average duration was 18 years and 5 months. From 1600 to 1700, men lived, on an average, 23 years and 7 months. From 1815 to 1826, the average was 37 years and 10 months.

Preventive against Moths.—The destruction to clothing and other articles of value, the use of which is usually suspended during the summer months, is not only extremely vexatious, but often of serious loss. We are therefore pleased to have it in our power to state, upon the authority of a respectable medical friend, who has often tested its efficacy in this particular, that the *Calamus* or *Sweet Flag Root*, which abounds in our vicinity, being cut in thin slices and scattered among woollens of any kind, will effectually repel the assaults of this destructive insect.—*Norfolk Beacon*.

The habit of copying from the London journals the monthly variations of female fashion, has become pretty common among the American newspapers. The changes of the modes of dress among the rougher sex being of no consequence in themselves, and generally no more than the substitution of one deformity for another, have not been thought worthy of being recorded in the same manner. However in order that the ladies here, who may not have had the pleasure of seeing a London dandy of the present season, either in town or at any of the watering places, may form some idea of his looks, we subjoin a description of his integuments. It is not quite so precise nor so technical, to be sure, as the monthly reports of the ladies' dresses, but on that account will be more intelligible to the uninitiated.—*N. Y. E. Post*.

Noelities in Gentlemen's Dresses, &c.—The most fashionable have left off wearing stays; but the waistcoats descend very low, and are laced behind like a corset. The waist of the frock coat is now so long that where it is buckled it wrinkles up, and forms plaits across. Coats, whether of Merino or cloth, have collars of rather a large size. The part which turns back is narrow, flat and very long. The waist is broad, and the flaps are so large that they do not only cover the hips, but the chief part of the thighs. Any gentleman who wishes to be thought really fashionable ought to wear in the button-

hole of his coat a rosebud.—When at dress parties this bud should be placed between his shirt and his under-waistcoat. The waistcoat descends so low, that the tailors hollow them out on each hip; without that precaution they would tuck up. There is a kind of waisting material for pantaloons, which is double twilled and of different colours—green and gray, blue and gray, or yellow and white. Pantaloons of this kind are made in the Russian fashion, without any plaits. When a dasher is walking, he puts one hand in his pocket behind, and brings the flap of his coat forward on one side. It used to be remarked in trifling conversation, that a tall, thin, ungraceful female resembled a camel-leopard.—Now they say, that a tall, thin man, with his waist pinched in, and if he is withal very full, looks like a grasshopper in an asthma.—*Gentleman's Magazine of Fashion*.

The Creek Indians have lately held their annual Council. One of the Chiefs was arraigned for forgery, and one for lying. The lower Creeks have fallen in debt for the provisions furnished them, seventeen thousand dollars more than their stipend. The upper Creeks made the most of their own provisions, and drew the money that was due them. The Mad Tyger, the principal speaker of the lower Creeks, opposed emigration in open Council.—*Columbus Enquirer*.

A VALUABLE POSSESSION.

A gentleman having had a pad that started and broke his wife's neck, a neighbouring squire told him he wished to purchase it for his wife to ride upon. "No," says the other, "I will not sell this little fellow, because I intend to marry again."

To dread no eye, and to suspect no tongue is the great prerogative of innocence; an exemption granted only to invariable virtue. But guilt has always its horrors and solitudes: and, to make it yet more shameful and detestable, it is doomed often to stand in awe of those to whom nothing could give influence or weight, but their power of betraying.

JOHNSON.

POETRY.



SELECTED.

THE DYING MOTHER.

She made a sign
To bring her babe—'twas brought, and by
her placed.

She looked upon its face, that neither smiled
Nor wept, nor knew who gazed upon't, and
laid

Her hand upon its little breast, and sought
For it, with look that seemed to penetrate
The Heavens—unutterable blessings—such
As God to dying parents only grants,
For infants left behind them in the world.
"God keep my child," we heard her say
and heard

No more. The Angel of the Covenant
Was come, and faithful to his promise stood
Prepared to walk with her through death's
dark vale.

And now her eyes grew bright, and brighter
still.

Too bright for ours to look upon, suffused
With many tears, and closed without a cloud.
They set as sets the morning star, which goes
Not down behind the darkened west, nor
hides

Obscured among the tempests of the sky,
But melts away into the light of heaven.

Pollok's Course of Time.

THE SABBATH.

Sweet Sabbath morn! from childhood's dim-
pled prime,

Pre loved to hail thy calm renewing time;
Soft steal thy bells upon the pensive mind,
In mingled murmurs floating on the wind,
Telling of friends and times long winged a-
way,

And blissful hopes harmonious with the day.

On thy still dawn, while holy music peals,
And far around the lingering echo steals,
What heart communes not with the day's
repose,

And bursts the thralldom of terrestrial woes?
Who in his temple, gives to God a prayer,
Nor feels the majesty of heaven is there?
The listening silence of the vaulted pile,
Where gathered hearts their homage breathe
awhile,

The mingled burst of penitential sighs,
The choral incense swelling to the skies,
All raise the soul to energies sublime,
And bless the solemn sadness of the mind.

Emblems of Peace—since the village choir
Thou dar'st a blessing to the toll-worn
swain:

Soon as thy smiles attend the husband-lay,
His bosom gladdens with the breathe of day,
Humble and happy, to his lot resigned,
He feels the law of Sabbath of the mind.

THE GEM.

There is a gem that's dearly bright,
Tho' found in this cold clime but rare,
It beams a mild, benignant light
And sheds a ray o'er sorrow's night,
And throws a heavenly radiance there.

There is a gem whose fervent glow,
Can dry affliction's bitter tear,
Can mitigate the pangs of woe,
And on the sad, fond smiles bestow,
To check and dissipate each fear.

There is a gem whose lustre, far
Exceeds the lovely lunar beam,
Or tints of morn, or evening star.
Or pearls that deck our Neptune's car
Or richer diamond's brightest gleam.

There is a gem that angels love,
And kindly their dear light impart,
To make it pure, for realms above,
And in celestial courts to move,
It is the fond the feeling heart.

S. Woodman.

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